

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2010, 4:30p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Rhea Baker-Ipek Trena Carter Ian Kohen Greg Lewis Tony McClendon Gil Palmer Rosalind Pegram John Roberts John Stroh	Akua B. Agyei Shiva Rallapalli

Meeting Called to Order

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Cooper Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll and requested any corrections or amendments to the June 2010 minutes.

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the June 30, 2010 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Kohen seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Carter reported the Donations Account monthly beginning balance as \$6,744.41 and after July disbursements of \$320.00, the account balance is \$6,324.41 as of July 23, 2010.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported the successful mediation of a tough housing complaint where the Respondent initially refused to consider mediation. She thanked Commissioner Stroh for his efforts in serving as mediator of the complaint. The Director informed Commissioners that she had started preparations to convene an emergency hearing with Chairperson Palmer to obtain a restraining order to prevent the eviction of the Complainant and a second hearing to obtain a subpoena for requested information. Director Tinsley explained that due to the Respondent's initial refusal to mediate, this mediation was not opened for observation.

Director Tinsley continued her report informing Commissioners of a second complaint that is currently pending while she communicates with the Respondent in an attempt to obtain their agreement to mediate as they [the Respondent] have ignored the initial request for information or an agreement to mediate.

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that staff members have been kept busy preparing for the budget presentation and upcoming events like the Fair Housing training that Deputy Director Smith will be providing for several Don R. Scheidt employees at a local apartment complex on August 11th. Deputy Director Smith advised that Commissioner Baker-Ipek would also be attending in compliance with the Six Sigma project

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that she had already spoken to a couple of classes out at I.U.P.U.C. and that she is in the process of confirming a date to train new staff members for Debbie Thomas, head of ESL for BCSC, on immigration and English as a Second Language [ESL] student rights.

Commissioners were given an update on the budget process by Director Tinsley informed of the request from City Council for department heads to be prepared to answer questions from Council members regarding the Six Sigma projects for their respective departments. Discussion ensued.

Deputy Director Smith informed Commissioners that CAMEO hosted a viewing of the World Cup finals and had good participation as attendees filled one theater and about half of a second theatre at Yes Cinema. She went on to report that CAMEO is currently preparing for the Ethnic Expo. She announced the Trinbago Association would be sponsoring their annual Sports and Family Day on August 8, 2010, and commissioners should have received an email with an attached flyer.

The Deputy Director advised that after a successful annual dinner, the group will be stepping back to begin planning for the remainder of 2010 and on through 2011. She went on to advise that she had started a preliminary draft of a business plan for CAMEO and the executive committee is finalizing details that will go in the business plan to be used as a road map for the future as well as a marketing and sales tool as they begin speaking with local businesses. Deputy Director Smith announced that the next CAMEO membership meeting will be on August 11 in the Summerville room located at the Columbus Learning Center.

OPEN FORUM:

Chairperson Palmer provided a packet of information about the upcoming Youth Summit 2010 scheduled for September 18th. He advised that the Summit is being sponsored by the Youth Advocacy Community Coalition (YACC) in conjunction with BCSC. He advised that the Summit is for all Bartholomew County students in grades 5 -12 and will be addressing some of the issues that students face in school such as drug use, teen pregnancy, bullying etc. He advised that a guest speaker [Dr. Danna Andrus] has been invited. The Chairperson asked all to share the information provided with youths and their parents and encourage their participation in the Summit. He also announced that anyone interested in volunteering would be welcomed. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pegram announced that there will be a rally on July 29th from 4:30pm to 6pm on the courthouse lawn opposing Arizona's controversial immigrant bill. The local rally was organized by Steve Franz and Rev. Dennis McCarty. All were invited to participate and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Baker-Ipek announced a Lambda Legal Benefit Dinner, featuring Tyne Daly, is to be held on October 1, 2010 in Indianapolis. She advised that she has additional information for anyone that is interested.

OTHER BUSINESS – Ad Hoc Committee Update:

Director Tinsley reported that ad hoc committee members are reviewing documents and reading materials from 'Teaching Tolerance' - Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and materials on 'What to do When Hate Comes to Town' in preparation for their next committee meeting. The Director reported that the Committee members will also be considering who to invite from the community, how to respond when the police department files their report and how the Committee can adequately respond to a fearful community after such events. Discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS – Annual Dinner Evaluations:

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners with a copy of the compiled annual dinner survey results and comments for the 2009 and 2010 annual dinners. Commissioners reviewed the survey and comments then shared verbal comments and inquiries they had personally received.

Commissioners engaged in discussion involving the tradition of the annual dinner, related budget, ticket cost, venue, and future dinner planning. Further discussion of the feasibility of making tickets available for guests who preferred to only attend the awards and keynote presentation ensued.

LIAISON UPDATE – PRIDE ALLIANCE COLUMBUS (PAC):

Commissioner Kohen advised that he did not attend the last PAC meeting; he had not been advised of any issues.

LIAISON UPDATE – INTERFAITH FORUM COLUMBUS (IFC):

Commissioner Lewis advised that IFC did not meet in the month of July.

LIAISON UPDATE – INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY COALITION (ICC):

Commissioner Stroh reported that ICC is continuing with programming activities and did not meet.

LIAISON UPDATE – IMMIGRATION ISSUES GROUP :

Commissioner Pegram advised that the group met in June, no report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned.